

Council on General Education Minutes
October 19, 2021
10-11:00 a.m., STV 140

Presiding: Chris Worland

Present: Brian Aitken, Allison Antink Meyer, Mary Elaine Califf, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Genevieve Fritz, Amy Hurd, Tony Marinello, Yvette Pigman, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Indira Robinson, Amy Wood, and Chris Worland

Guests:

Malinda Aiello, Program Director, Illinois Articulation Initiative
Donald Reed, Program Director, University Housing Services

Worland called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Action Items:

1. IDS 99 Identity in Residence Hall Communities (new course)

2. IDS 96 Identity in Residence Hall Communities (new course)

The Council chose to review and discuss items one and two together as they are related. IDS 99 was previously discussed as IDS 99A01. Discussion had been tabled pending receipt of additional information from the course proposer.

Worland noted the newly submitted syllabus looked great and opened the floor to Reed. Reed appreciated the feedback he received earlier from the Council. He explained he took that feedback back to Housing staff to have conversations regarding where they wanted the courses to go. Staff was able to have key conversations regarding the specific situations resident assistants may encounter.

Hurd explained to the Council that IDS 89A01 was created as a temporary course but was never approved as a permanent course. The number has been changed to IDS 96. Reed added IDS 99 would be repeatable and would be taken by resident assistants after completing their first semester. He explained topics for the course would change accordingly as needed. New resident assistants would enroll in IDS 96 during their first semester as a resident assistant. Topics in those courses would also be tweaked as necessary. Hurd added the grading method for both courses had been changed to CR/NC basis.

Antink Meyer noted the topic and reading lists for IDS 99 were very clear but did not have the topic sequence embedded in them as they did for IDS 96. Reed responded they were still working on the timing of when the topics would occur for IDS 99 but noted the topics listed would be representative of what would be covered in the course and staff wanted to stay as true to the learning objectives as possible. Ferrence, Califf, and Marinello all agreed the timing that topics are taught can vary and the need to be flexible was key as things can quickly change.

A motion was made by Rivadeneyra to approve IDS 96. Marinello seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed

A motion was made by Califf to approve IDS 99. Fritz seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

3. Ethnic Studies (minor revision)

The revision was proposed by Dr. Susan Kalter, Professor, Department of English. The revision was discussed at the previous meeting. Discussion was tabled pending receipt of additional information from the proposer. Worland contacted Kalter who provided clarification regarding the Council's questions.

Worland noted Kalter was pleased a student member had read through the proposal and provided feedback. He added the intent of the proposers was to allow students to take anything on the course list based on the student's interest/approach. Students pursuing the minor would be allowed to take more than one HIS 104 or IDS 121 course. Worland added the proposal was also updated to remove the reference to the University Studies program. Based on the clarification of the proposers' intentions, Worland believed the proposed strikethroughs on the proposal were correct.

Wood noted the original wording was confusing in that it had made it seem students could take any of the HIS 104/IDS 121 courses, but the preference was that students only took one. Based on the clarification, Wood believed the intent was they did not care. Worland verified students could take any of the decimalized sections listed toward the minor. Hurd added rationale provided in the proposal does not appear in the catalog which should also help with the confusion.

Fritz noted she felt better about the proposal and thought the context was now much clearer. For her program, she is only allowed to take one version/section of HIS 104, so she was pleased to see this would not be an issue for students pursuing the minor.

A motion was made by Ferrence to accept the Ethnic Studies minor revisions. Pigman seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

Discussion Items:

4. IDEAS Update

Hurd reminded Council members the IDEAS requirement was passed by the Academic Senate. A call went out yesterday via email for volunteers for an expert panel of reviewers. The deadline to volunteer for the panel will be October 25. The process for submitting a course for the IDEAS designation is the same for any other proposal and will follow the college curricular processes. For those courses that are proposed for IDEAS and are also General Education courses, they will come to the Council for review. Courses that are not part of General Education will go to Hurd. Hurd hoped departments would start submitting courses for consideration yet this semester.

Rivadenevra asked if the Council should expect to see a lot of proposals. She asked if there had been any thought to “rubber stamping” and course the expert panel approved, provided there were no revisions to the course. Ferrence suggested a consent agenda procedure be used. Hurd will check with Academic Senate Chair Dr. Martha Horst and will report back to the Council.

5. CGE Bylaws Update

Hurd informed the Council that the bylaws for CGE were listed as an information item on tomorrow’s Academic Senate meeting agenda. She did not have any additional information and will report back to the Council the Senate’s actions at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Rivadenevra to adjourn. Seconded by Califf.

Meeting adjourned 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons